GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:253
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Death of Wild Animals
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the wild animals in zoos located in different parts of the country are dying due to heat and cold;
(b) if so, the details of such deaths in different zoos in the country including Delhi Zoo during the last one year;
(c) whether the Government proposes to take any steps to save these wild animals; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a)& (b)Extreme heat and cold condition affect the health of wildlife in zoos, which sometimes results in their death. Details on deaths due to heat and cold of wild animals kept in the recognised zoos in the country, as per their Annual Inventory Report for year 2016-17, are given at Annexure-I. No death of animals due to heat and cold has been received from Delhi Zoo.

(c) & (d) Yes Madam. The Government have taken following steps for upkeep and healthcare of animals housed in zoos across the country:

1. The Government of India framed Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009 for health, upkeep and veterinary care of the animals.
2. An advisory has been issued to all the States to constitute a Health Advisory Committee to advise the zoo operators in the State on Animal Healthcare related matters and with a mandate to visit the zoos at least once every three months to monitor compliance with the Rules regarding upkeep and healthcare of animals.
3. The Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly has been designated as National Referral Centre for extending necessary help to the zoos in the country for health and veterinary care of the captive wild animals.
4. The Government of India (Central Zoo Authority) regularly evaluates all the zoos recognised under Section 38H(1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and directs the zoos to construct enclosures for animals to protect from harsh climatic conditions.
5. The action has been taken against the zoos not meeting the norms and standards specified under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009.

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